

## REMARKS

In the Office Action the title was objected to as not being descriptive. In response, the title has been amended to read GASKET FOR A HARD DISC DEVICE.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Additionally, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jelinek (U.S. Pat. No. 4,254,960, hereinafter “Jelinek”), under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seki (U.S. Pat. Appln. No. 2005/0225039, hereinafter “Seki”), and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyake (Japanese Patent Appln. No. 2003-049949, hereinafter “Miyake”).

Amended Claim 1 clarifies the following structures:

- (1) a gasket 1 of the present invention comprises a plate 2 and a packing 3;
- (2) the plate 2 has a flat surface and is screwed to an opposing assembly member 4 at a screw fixing portion 5;
- (3) the packing 3 is bonded to a peripheral area on the flat surface of the plate 2 in a predetermined pattern;

(4) the packing 3 includes a base portion 6, a lip portion 7, and an extension portion 9;

(5) the base portion 6 is bonded to the flat surface of the plate 2;

(6) the lip portion is raised from the base portion 6, is disposed at an outer peripheral side of the plate 2 in a width direction of the packing 3, and is bent to an inner peripheral side of the plate 2 when the lip portion 7 is compressed by the opposing assembly member 4;

(7) the extension portion 9 extends from the base portion 6 toward the outer peripheral side of the plate 2 near the screw fixing portion 5 and an inflection portion 8, 9 of the base portion 6; and

(8) bottom surfaces 8a, 9a of the base portion 6 and the extension portion 9 are contiguous on the flat surface of the plate 2.

As described on pages 1 to 2 of the present application and illustrated in Figures 5-7, a conventional cover gasket 51 for an HDD (hard disc device) includes a cover plate 52 and a packing 53 bonded on a flat surface of the cover plate 52 in a given pattern. As shown in Figure 6, the packing 53 has an asymmetrical shape in cross section with respect to a width direction thereof. When the cover plate 52 is screwed to an opposing base plate 55, as shown in Figure 7, a lip portion 54 is bent to an inner peripheral side of the cover plate 52 by a compressive load. At the time,

a bending moment  $M$  (in a left rotating direction in Figure 7) is exerted in the packing 53 by a compressive force. Dustproof and air-sealing functions can be obtained by bending the lip portion 54.

However, since a larger bending moment  $M$  is exerted in the packing 53 near the screw fixing portion 56 on the cover plate 52 than is exerted on the other portions, the packing 53 has been apt to be peeled off from the cover plate 52 at an area near the screw fixing portion 56.

An object of the present invention is to provide a gasket having a construction in which a packing cannot be peeled off from a plate by a bending moment. Accordingly, the present invention prevents the peeling-off of the packing by the above structures (7) and (8).

The three references cited in the Final Office Action neither disclose nor suggest at least (4) through (8) in the above structures.

Jelinek discloses a sealing device in which a packing ring 35 is fitted into groove sections 16-19. The packing ring 35 has an identical cross section over a whole length. When the packing ring 35 is compressed between members 11 and 12, a raised portion 36 is not bent to a side of a recess 37. Accordingly, a bending moment is not exerted in the packing ring 35. In such a sealing device, there is no

problem of peeling-off of the packing ring 35 due to the bending moment. Consequently, the packing ring 35 is not provided with an extension portion corresponding to the extension portion 9 in the present invention.

Seki discloses a gasket 1 including a gasket main body 2 and a lug portion 3. The gasket main body 2 includes a base portion 4 and a lip portion 5 and has an identical cross section over a whole length. When the gasket main body 2 is compressed between members, a lip portion 3 is not bent laterally (in a width direction). Accordingly, a bending moment is not exerted in the gasket main body 2. In such a gasket 1, there is no problem of peeling-off of the gasket main body 2 due to the bending moment. Consequently, the gasket main body 2 is not provided with an extension portion corresponding to the extension portion 9 in the present invention. The lug portion 3 merely serves as a finger grip. In addition, since the gasket 1 is not bonded on a member by using an adhesive, the problem of peeling-off of the gasket main body 2 will not occur naturally. Seki does not suggest the object of the present invention.

Miyake discloses a gasket 1 bonded on a top cover board 4. The gasket 1 includes a base portion 1a and a main bead portion 2 (see Figure 1) or includes a base portion 1a, a main bead 2, and sub bead portion 3 (see Figure 5). However, in either

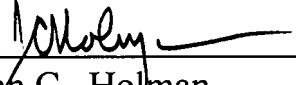
case, the gasket 1 has an identical cross section over a whole length. When the gasket 1 is compressed between members 4 and 5, the main bead 2 is bent to or onto a side of a lateral extension portion (in a right side in Figures 1 and 5). However, a bending moment is not exerted in the gasket 1 (see Figures 2 and 6), since the lateral extension portion of the base portion 1a support a deflection of the main bead 2. In such a gasket 1, there is no problem of peeling-off of the base portion 1a due to the bending moment. If the bending moment is exerted in the gasket 1, a portion corresponding to the extension portion 9 in the present invention should be provided on a left side of the base portion 1a. However, in reality, such extension portion is not provided on the base portion 1a.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/519,463  
Atty Docket No.: P70333US0

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: May 23, 2007  
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